

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A telephone interview was held on May 25, 2006 between the Examiner and the undersigned. The Examiner's cooperation and assistance are acknowledged with appreciation.

During the telephone interview, a modified version of claim 1 was discussed, and that version is presented herein as amended claim 1. The Examiner agreed that amended claim 1 patentably distinguishes the invention over Neuberger. In the present invention, light is coupled into optical waveguide 1 via a coupling-in area 3 which is a single curved region that covers the entire end of the optical waveguide (see Fig. 1). In contrast, Neuberger discloses no such arrangement. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-14 all depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and each is, therefore, allowable therewith.

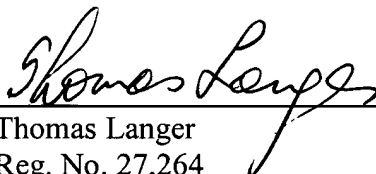
Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

Appl. No. 10/690,110
Amdt. dated July 7, 2006
Reply to Office action of Feb. 28, 2006

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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